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Bills that encourage the development and use of renewable fuels signed

Sen. Patterson: "These measures break new ground in providing Michigan with an environmentally healthy, cost-effective answer to our fuel problem"

LANSING—State Senator Bruce Patterson, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy from the 7th District, issued the following statement following the governor's signing of the renewable fuels package:

"This is a much-needed shot in the arm for the state's energy plan. This legislation will encourage the development and use of renewable fuels and make them more available. My bill, which creates 10 new renaissance zones for the manufacture of alternative energy, will promote greater availability of alternative fuels for Michigan business and industry.

"By offering incentives for both producers and consumers, these measures break new ground in providing Michigan with an environmentally healthy, cost-effective answer to our fuel problem while boosting our agriculture economy.

"While this package is a key part of the Legislature's comprehensive response to the state's energy needs, it is not the only part. On June 29, the Senate approved a 'Next Energy' package of bills that provides critical tax incentives to spur the expansion of advanced energy practices, such as hydrogen fuel cells. The legislation is designed to spur the generation, storage, and distribution of clean fuels, alternative energy systems and alternative energy vehicles in the Michigan.

"And in February of this year, I convened a bipartisan workgroup of energy stakeholders, from industry and power suppliers to public interest groups to advanced technology specialists. This workgroup has been meeting weekly, and later this year it will present a report that will address the long-term energy needs of the state.

"Michigan's future depends on a reliable and affordable energy supply. I am confident that this package and the 'Next Energy' bills will help us move closer to achieving that goal."

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